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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES
VOLUNTARY PATERNITY TESTING PROGRAM
PO BOX 9162
OLYMPIA WA 98507-9835

What should we do if the genetic testing report says the man tested is the biological father?

If the genetic testing shows the man is the biological father of the child, you may sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage at a county vital records office, a hospital, or a DCS office. Signing the Acknowledgment of Parentage is voluntary, and the signatures on the form must be notarized or witnessed. If you file the Acknowledgment of Parentage on your own, DOH requires a filing fee, but DCS may pay the filing fee if you bring or send the form to DCS. DCS staff may notarize or witness your signatures if you have proper identification.

If you need help getting or completing an Acknowledgment of Parentage form, call DCS at 1-800-442-KIDS (5437) or see the back of the Establish Parentage for Your Child's Sake brochure for the phone number of a DCS office near you.

Note: This brochure does not advise you of all the rights and responsibilities of signing the Acknowledgment of Parentage. Please call 1-800-356-0463 for more information, or contact an attorney.

What if I have more questions about voluntary genetic testing through DCS?

Call the Voluntary Paternity Testing Program (VPTP) information line at 1-800-285-1892. A representative from DCS will answer your questions. You may be asked to leave a short message and tell us a convenient time to call you back.

DSHS does not discriminate and provides equal access to its programs and services for all persons without regard to race, color, gender, religion, creed, marital status, national origin, sexual preference/orientation, age, veteran's status or the presence of any physical, sensory mental disability.

Washington State's
Child Support Program



Voluntary Paternity Testing Program



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services

Transforming lives

DSHS 22-1443 (Rev. 11/18)

Who qualifies for the voluntary paternity testing program?

A mother, child, and possible biological father may qualify for genetic testing at no cost if all the following are true:

- The child was born in Washington.
- The mother was not married at the time of the child's birth and the child was not born within 300 days of the termination of the marriage.
- The child is less than two years old.
- There is no second parent named on the child's birth certificate.
- Parentage has not already been acknowledged or established legally for the child by a court.
- Both the mother and possible father are at least 18 years old.
- Both the mother and possible father are considering whether to sign a voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage.
- Both the mother and possible father agree to participate in the program.

What is a paternity test?

A paternity test is a scientific test to identify whether a man is or is not the biological father of a child. Genetic samples from the birth-mother, possible father, and the child are tested by a genetic testing laboratory, and the laboratory issues a report on the results of the genetic testing.

For the test, genetic samples are collected by swirling separate long cotton swabs around the inside of the mouth of each person tested.

Why does the Division of Child Support (DCS) offer free voluntary genetic testing?

Under Washington law, unmarried mothers and possible fathers may sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage to establish paternity for a child. When unmarried parents choose to sign an Acknowledgment of Parentage to establish parentage of their child without first having genetic testing to confirm fatherhood, they may have later doubts. By offering genetic testing to unmarried parents who are interested in establishing paternity, DCS helps parents settle the question of the child's biological father early in the child's life.

For more information about voluntary Acknowledgment of Parentage in Washington state, please refer to the Acknowledgment of Parentage form, the **Establish Parentage for Your Child's Sake brochure** (DSHS 22-586), the parentage video which is available at every DCS office, or the parentage information line at 1-800-356-0463. You may also wish to consult with an attorney.

If I request voluntary genetic testing, will DCS automatically open a case to collect child support?

No. A request for no-cost voluntary genetic testing or signing an Acknowledgment of Parentage does not cause DCS to automatically open up a case for child support enforcement. DCS opens a case for child support enforcement only if the child goes on public assistance, or if the custodial or noncustodial parent of the child applies for child support enforcement services. To ask DCS to provide child support enforcement services for your child, call DCS at 1-800-442-KIDS (5437) or go to the DCS website at www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/.

If the child does go on public assistance, or a custodial or noncustodial parent of the child applies for child support enforcement services, DCS may stop paternity testing through the voluntary testing process and refer your case to the Prosecuting Attorney's office to establish parentage in court.

There may be other situations when DCS transfers a case to the Prosecutor for parentage establishment. If a man is excluded as the father by genetic testing through the voluntary paternity testing program, DCS may refer the mother and child to the Prosecutor for a possible parentage action in court. If the Prosecutor files an action, you may be required to pay some costs.

How do I apply for a no-cost voluntary genetic test?

Both the mother and the possible father must agree to be tested. Complete the postage-paid application form on this brochure, tear it off, fold it, and mail it to DCS. Once your application is received, DCS will check your child's birth information with birth records filed with the Washington State Department of Health. A representative from DCS will contact one of you to review your application.

If you qualify for services, DCS will schedule you for testing. DCS will send you a letter telling you the time and place for your test. The birth mother, possible father, and child must all go to a testing location where the test is administered. Proper identification is required, including photo identification for the adults.

Will I receive the test result?

Yes. The lab sends a report to both the mother and the possible father.

Who can see my application information and my genetic test results?

DCS and its partners, including Prosecuting Attorneys and courts, and the other tested party may see this information.

Genetic Test Authorization Form

Possible Father's Name

First

Middle

Last

Address

City

Date of Birth

month

day

year

Phone Number

()

()

()

Apt. #

Alt. Phone

()

()

Email Address:

Mother's Name

First

Middle

Last

Address (if same as the possible father's, write "same")

City

Date of Birth

month

day

year

Hone Phone

()

()

()

Cell Phone

()

()

()

Email Address:

Child's Name

First

Middle

Last

Name of hospital where the child was born:

Date of Birth

month

day

year

Whom should we call if we need to ask questions?

Mother

Man

Laboratories do genetic testing during daytime hours Monday through Friday.

By signing below, I agree that I have read this booklet. I knowingly and voluntarily acknowledge that the Division of Child Support and its partners may use application information, interview information, all genetic testing paperwork including the chain of custody, any genetic samples taken to be used in a subsequent paternity action, and genetic test results. I understand that if a paternity case is referred to court, I may be responsible for paying genetic testing costs if the court requires it or if a re-test is required by the Court and/or Prosecuting Attorney.

Please refer us for a voluntary no-cost genetic test.

Possible Father's Signature

Date

Mother's Signature

Date

For staff use only

Referral Number:

Notes:

Detach this form, fold and seal for return mail